

PETITION

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF RACINE, IN THE TERRITORY  
OF WISCONSIN,

PRAYING

*That no law may be passed to authorize the location of certain floats  
on the lands settled and improved by them.*

MAY 10, 1838.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
United States :*

The undersigned, actual settlers and inhabitants, residing in the town of  
Racine, Racine county, and Territory of Wisconsin,

**RESPECTFULLY SHOW :**

That, in the year 1836, six floats, emanating from pre-emptions granted  
by the land officers at Green Bay, were located upon the improvements of  
the actual settlers upon section nine, (9,) township three (3) north, range  
twenty-three east, of the fourth principal meridian, situated at the mouth of  
Root river, in the town and county aforesaid.

The settlers upon whose improvements the said floats were located  
appealed to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and he decided  
against the location of said floats, and his decision has recently been affirm-  
ed by the Secretary of the Treasury, as we have been informed.

The undersigned further show that they have been informed and believe  
that the owners of the said floats are endeavoring to obtain the passage of  
some law of Congress to legalize the location of said floats. The under-  
signed, who are the actual settlers, upon whose improvements the said floats  
were laid, and their neighbors, who are acquainted with the facts herein  
set forth, respectfully state that it would be unjust and oppressive to permit  
the purchasers of floats to locate them upon the possessions of the actual  
settlers, and deprive them of the benefits of their improvements, and their  
rights to a pre-emption. The undersigned, therefore, respectfully remon-  
strate against the passage of any law that may legalize the location of  
these floats, and enable the speculators, who purchased them, to defraud the  
actual settlers out of their improvements.

APRIL 11, 1838.

William See  
R. W. Everett

Sidney A. Sage  
J. J. Everett

Blair & Rives, printers.

James Kinzie  
M. G. Carpenter  
L. H. Merchant  
S. H. Sage  
D. H. Hulburt  
E. Smith  
Samuel Remgrue  
C. Derby Sherard  
N. R. Allen  
Paul Kingston  
Joel Sage

Stephen Campbell  
George Campbell  
Edmund Weed  
Harrison K. Fay  
Elijah Fay  
Ebenezer Pierce  
H. Hulburt  
N. Huntington  
Benjamin Ames  
James M. Stryker  
Jotham G. Smith

CHICAGO, April 26, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to enclose to you the remonstrance of the actual settlers at Root river, against the passage of any law, by Congress, to legalize the location of six floats upon the improvements of the actual settlers at that place. I am acquainted with most of the signers, and know that they are worthy and respectable persons.

Four of the floats mentioned in the remonstrance are owned by persons living in and about Green Bay; one of those floats was laid upon the improvements of a widow woman, Mrs. M. G. Carpenter, who has signed the remonstrance; two other of the floats were laid upon the improvements of Mr. Sage, an honest worthy settler, who was, and still is, living on the land with his family, and has a good deal under cultivation. He is a man advanced in age, and this claim of his is his *all*. Another of the floats was laid upon the improvements of Mr. Campbell, who has signed the remonstrance.

The remaining two floats were owned, by Captain Knapp and Colonel G. J. Hubbard. These two gentlemen I have great respect for, and feel friendly towards them. They laid their two floats on land mostly in the possession and occupation of Captain Knapp; and no one complains of the location of these two floats except Paul Kingston, who claims that he was a settler upon part of the premises upon which these floats were laid. The only difficulty Captain Knapp and Hubbard has is with Mr. Kingston. Mr. Kingston had been living on a part of the land some time before the location of these two floats, and had erected some good buildings thereon. He claims that he is entitled to a part of the land. I will not undertake to decide the merits of the case between him and Captain Knapp. I know, however, that Captain Knapp and Hubbard can easily settle with Mr. Kingston, by giving him a small portion of the land, to which he is probably entitled; and I have agreed to go to Racine, in a few days, with Colonel Hubbard, to assist him in making this settlement with Kingston; that can be effected, and Captain Knapp can then get the pre-emption under the general pre-emption law, in his own name, and that will remove all his difficulty, and he will want no aid from Congress. I wish you would show him this letter, for he is gentleman whom I esteem, and it would give me pain to counteract his interest in any way; but I cannot prevent Mr. Kingston from remonstrating against the location of Captain Knapp's floats; and the better way for Captain Knapp will be to give Mr. K. a small part of the land, or to make the fight with him on proving up the pre-emption;

but I hope that Captain Knapp will not unite with the persons who own the other four scandalous floats at Green Bay, to obtain an act for them to be legalized.

I am requested by the settlers to enclose their remonstrance to you ; and if the bill to legalize, in any way, these floats, has not passed the Senate, you are requested to present the remonstrance to the Senate, if the bill is pending there. If the bill should be pending in the other House, you are requested to get some member to present the remonstrance there ; and if you believe the bill ought not to pass, you are requested to oppose its passage. I shall be happy to hear from you on the subject.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JUSTIN BUTTERFIELD.

Hon. R. M. YOUNG,  
*United States Senate.*

but I hope that Captain Knapp will not unite with the persons who own the other four, scandalous firms in Green Bay, to obtain a patent for them to be legalized.

I am requested by the members to enclose their remonstrance to you, and if the bill to legalize, in any way, these firms has not passed the Senate, you are requested to present the remonstrance to the Senate. If the bill is pending there, if the bill should be pending in the other House, you are requested to get some member to present the remonstrance there; and if you believe the bill ought not to pass, you are requested to oppose its passage. I shall be happy to hear from you on the subject.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JUSTIN BUTTERFIELD.

Hon. R. M. Young,

8251 United States Senate.

out to secure a patent for the same of record and every other person who is engaged in the same, never will be able to obtain a patent for the same. The bill to legalize, in any way, these firms has not passed the Senate, and you are requested to present the remonstrance to the Senate. If the bill is pending there, if the bill should be pending in the other House, you are requested to get some member to present the remonstrance there; and if you believe the bill ought not to pass, you are requested to oppose its passage. I shall be happy to hear from you on the subject.

The remonstrance is now being prepared by the members of the Senate, and I am requested by the members to enclose their remonstrance to you, and if the bill to legalize, in any way, these firms has not passed the Senate, you are requested to present the remonstrance to the Senate. If the bill is pending there, if the bill should be pending in the other House, you are requested to get some member to present the remonstrance there; and if you believe the bill ought not to pass, you are requested to oppose its passage. I shall be happy to hear from you on the subject.